

## SPANISH TROOPS FIRE ON AMERICANS.

Brutal Outrage at San Miguel, Cuba, Reported to President Cleveland.

Pedro Casanova, Formerly of the 7th Regiment, Brutally Outraged Near Havana.

Women Insulted and Their Homes Looted by Their Uniformed Assaults.

FORCED TO FLEE FOR THEIR LIVES.

Every Effort Possible Made by Captain General Weyler to Conceal the Truth in Regard to the Attack.

New York, May 5, 1896.  
Honorable Grover Cleveland, President of the United States, Washington, D. C.

My brother, Pedro Casanova, and family, American citizens, and my nephew, Julio Vidal, a native born American, have been trampled upon, their house sacked, their servants shot and their lives threatened by Spanish troops in San Miguel, Cuba.

As an American citizen I demand immediate protection for the United States for their lives and property.

ENILIA CASANOVA DE VILLAVENDE.  
No reply to this spirited dispatch had been received by Mrs. Villaverde, of No. 350 West One Hundred and Sixteenth street, up to a late hour last night. The telegram was sent after the receipt of a letter from her sister in Havana, giving full particulars of the brutal and outrageous treatment of Mr. Casanova and his friends by Spanish soldiers on April 28. The letter had to be smuggled to Key West before mailing.

"My brother Pedro," said Mrs. Villaverde yesterday, "went to Cuba some months ago to look after his plantation at San Miguel de Jaramo, a small village only a short distance from Havana. With him on the plantation were his nephew, Julio Vidal, Mrs. Casanova and her three children, the oldest a boy of five years, the youngest a baby girl."

"The letter says that on the morning of April 28, while Mr. Casanova was talking in the parlor of his home to his nephew, Julio, who is only eighteen years old, they heard shots fired and went out on the porch to see what was the matter. They saw between 200 and 300 Spanish soldiers advancing upon the house with their firearms leveled upon it. Mr. Casanova closed the door, and then all the family threw themselves upon the floor to escape being shot. More volleys were fired and the house was riddled with bullets."

SEVEN WORKMEN MURDERED.  
"Then my brother, who is a brave man, went to the door, threw it open and faced the soldiers. One of them seized him by the coat collar and dragged him out of the house. Undoubtedly he would have been shot had not the Spanish commander ordered the soldier to let him go. Then the commander asked my brother what the men were doing to the other house. Mr. Casanova replied that they were his workmen."

"The soldiers advanced upon the other building, and the workmen, six in number, ran into my brother's house for protection. Five of them were laid away and shot. A sixth, the cook, Tomas Linares,

was struck on the head with a sword. The blow split his head in twain, and he fell dying in a pool of his own blood before Mr. Casanova's eyes. A poor water carrier, the father of nine children, was also shot down and killed."

"My brother was talking to the Spanish commander when the soldiers seized his nephew, tied ropes around his limbs and ordered him to kneel so that they might shoot him. The boy exclaimed: 'I'm an American citizen, born in New York!'"

This, with a cry from Mrs. Casanova, 'Don't shoot my nephew! He is only a boy, and has lived here with us on the plantation,' saved the lad's life, and induced the commander to release him."

"The commander then said to Mr. Casanova: 'You must leave this place right away.' 'But I want to stay here and protect my property,' said my brother. 'You must choose between life by leaving or death by staying here,' replied the commander."

"Well," said my brother, 'I choose life, and will leave.'

DRIVEN FROM THEIR HOME.

"He, his nephew, Mrs. Casanova and the children left at once. As no trains are running, they may have had to walk to

## RUSSELL SAGE AND GEORGE GOULD EXPLAINING RAPID TRANSIT PLANS TO THE MAYOR.



## NEW "L" ROAD IN AMSTERDAM AVENUE.

Part of the Gould-Sage Plan for Rapid Transit from the Battery to Yonkers.

Financiers Tell the Mayor What They Want to Do, and He Is with Them.

FOUR TRACKS ON THIRD AVENUE.

Few Details Are Submitted, but Colonel Strong, Who Is for a Tunnel Road, Too, Will Go Before the Commission with the Map.

I shall submit the plans of Messrs. Gould and Sage for the "L" road extension to the Rapid Transit Commission within a very short time. This does not mean that I favor new "L" roads in preference to the underground system. As a matter of fact, I heartily favor the building of an underground road, but we require better rapid transit facilities while that is in progress, and for that reason and for the reason also that New York needs all the transit facilities it can get, I am willing that additional privileges shall be granted the elevated railroad company, Mayor Strong.

Before he made this statement, pledging himself to the underground tunnel scheme and to the extension of the elevated roads, the Mayor had a conversation lasting nearly an hour with Russell Sage and George Gould. The conference was secret.

Arrangements for the meeting were made by telephone, and at 11 o'clock Messrs. Gould and Sage walked hurriedly up Broadway and across City Hall Park to the cellarway under the Hall. There were cobwebs on the ceiling and dust on the walls, but the two financiers took the underground route in spite of its uninviting surroundings, and after groping along past the rear door of Marshall Hall's office went up the private stairway to the Mayor's pink tea room, where they were met by His Honor's messenger, who was in waiting by pre-arranged plan. The Mayor met the "L" magnates a minute later, and then the doors were locked and the three remained in conference until noon. The visitors left by the main corridor, and on the way stopped long enough to tell of some of the points that had been talked about. They omitted the significant fact, however, that they left with the Mayor a map showing what they proposed to do.

THE GENERAL PLAN.  
By this map it appears that the privileges they seek is the right to make the Third avenue road a four-track line and to build a new line on the West Side, either up West street from the Battery to Bloomfield street, and from there through Amsterdam avenue to Yonkers, with a side line through Fourteenth street to Sixth avenue, or else from Thirty-third street and Sixth avenue through Broadway to the Boulevard, to Amsterdam avenue and to Yonkers. The double deck scheme and bicycle path were left for future consideration.

When asked if the Mayor had been shown the detailed plans Mr. Gould replied: "No; we merely talked with the Mayor in a general way on rapid transit. He seemed very much interested in the various plans recently talked out, and especially with the Central and West street connection with the Bridge."

"Did the Mayor ask for details?" "Yes, and incidentally about plans submitted five years ago." "Did you give him any figures?" "No." "Do you propose to submit plans to the Rapid Transit Commission?" "No; we shall leave that to the Mayor. This is about all that transpired. The conversation was general, but from the Mayor's very interested manner I am convinced that he is in favor of the 'L' system as against the underground."

RUSSELL SAGE'S COMMENTS.

Mr. Sage here interposed by saying: "I was very much pleased with the interest the Mayor manifested in providing extensions into the new territory. He asked me whether it would be more expedient to start a new line from Thirty-third street and Broadway up through the Boulevard and Amsterdam avenue by way of Kingsbridge road to Yonkers, or whether it would be better to start from the Battery and go up West street to Bloomfield street, to Amsterdam avenue and to Yonkers by the same way. I promised to submit both propositions."

"Did the Mayor ask for figures?" "No, nor did we offer any. We did speak to him, however, concerning the question of waiting damages on the part of taxpayers in the new district and elsewhere, and he said that, of course, was a matter that could not then be considered."

"I think, however," said Mr. Sage, "that the question is a very important one for us. The Mayor said that he was desirous of coming to a decision as to which of his plans he would like to have all the information that could be gathered."

"Did the Mayor say he would present these plans to the Rapid Transit Commission?" "No, he didn't say so, but we take it for granted that he will."

In addition to making this significant statement at the beginning of the article, Mayor Strong said:

WILL GO TO THE COMMISSION.  
"The plans submitted involve a very comprehensive system of rapid transit. They do not provide for an East Side line to the city limits at this time, but otherwise they seem to be satisfactory. I want to obtain expert advice from engineers, and then I shall submit the plans to the Rapid Transit Commission for action."

In a general way, the Mayor said that he was well pleased with the propositions of Messrs. Gould and Sage, and that their plans embodied many of his own ideas of the question.

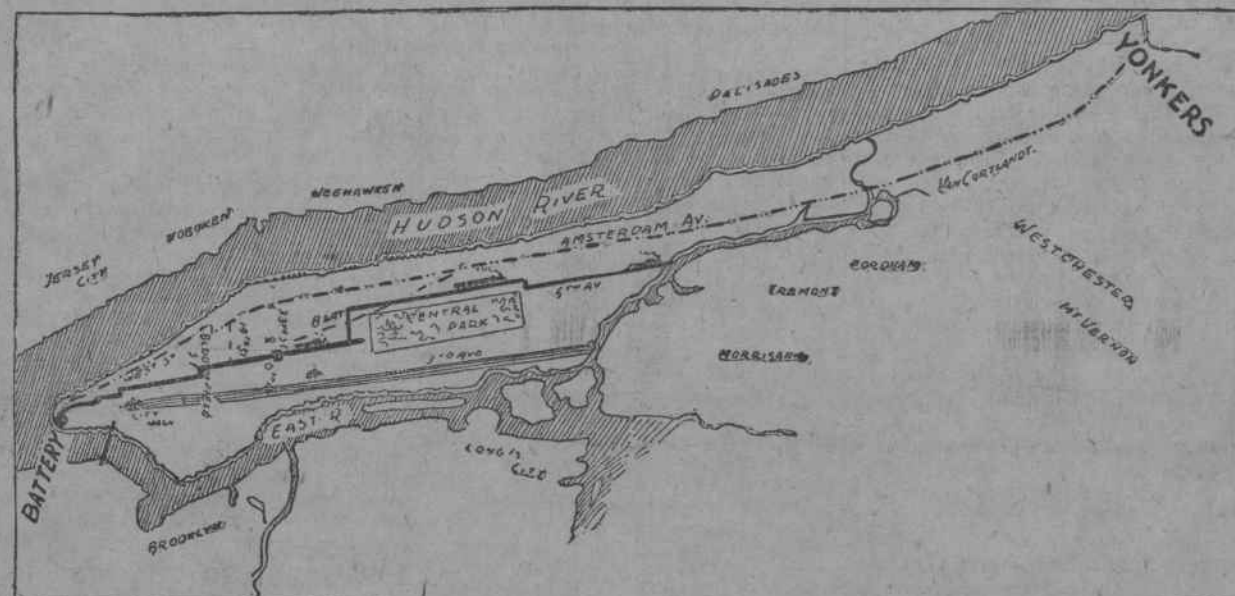
Rapid Transit Commissioner Stedman said the one could guess what would be done with the plans after they reach the Commission.

"The matter will be more easily solved," he said, "than when the 'L' proposition submitted in 1884, for the reason that the Commission had to act as a unit, and now six out of the eight Commissioners control."

"For my own part, I will not desert the merits of the scheme," said Mr. Strong, "because I will be called upon to officially."

Advertisement.

PIERCE'S  
PELLETS  
FOR THE LIVER



DOTTED LINE SHOWS ROUTE OF PROPOSED NEW "L" ROAD TO YONKERS.

## WOMAN BURGLAR GOT MRS. MAGNUS'S GOWNS.

Entered a Gas Company President's Summer Home at Bell Island.

Fowling Pieces Taken, but Afterwards Discarded, and Valuables Were Ignored.

Sex of the Thief Established by the Owner of the Dresses Which Were Taken.

TWO OTHER COTTAGES WERE ROBBED

Police, Who Believe the Criminals Live in the Vicinity of Their Deed, Would Not Investigate Until Victims Arrived

Mrs. Eugene R. Magnus lives in Brooklyn and is the wife of the Broadway Gas Company's president. They spend the Summers at Bell Island, near Norwalk, Conn., where they have a cottage, and there Mrs. Magnus left a large number of handsome Summer gowns when she returned to Brooklyn last Fall.

Sunday she went with her husband to their Bell Island cottage, called by a telegram informing them that burglars had looted the cottage. They found that a window had been battered in, and beneath it on the floor was a pool of blood. The burglar who first entered there had evidently cut his hand on broken glass.

Mrs. Magnus's first thought was of her treasures. She searched through the rooms, but though there was much disorder, nothing seemed to be gone until she reached the closets in which the gowns had been packed. Every gown that had any value in her eyes was gone.

Mr. Magnus had been searching, too. His first thought was for his fowling pieces, and fishing rods. The guns had been taken from their racks, but were found on the floor, smeared here and there by blood. The rods were undisturbed.

If anything except these gowns was stolen it was so insignificant that Mr. and Mrs. Magnus did not miss it. But the lady's lost pointed directly to the sex of the burglar.

"The thief was a woman," she said.

Every fact confirmed her theory. The selections of gowns were such as only a woman would make, and some carefully guarded tracks around the houses were found to have been made by a woman's No. 3 shoe. There were also imprints of a man's feet—great, deep prints—and it

was their maker probably who broke the window and took the fowling pieces from their racks.

The Norwalk police, who had delayed making an examination of the Magnus cottage until the owners had gone over it, accepted Mrs. Magnus's theory and concluded from all the facts that the burglars were not professionals, but lived in the vicinity of their crime.

Two cottages adjoining the Magnus place are in season occupied by Rev. William H. Thomas and family, of Lynn, Mass. Windows in each of these had been broken and burglars had entered, but the extent of their depredations was not known when Mr. Magnus left Norwalk, as Mr. Thomas had not arrived and the police would not enter the places until he had looked them over.

Mrs. Magnus in her home last night told of the burglaries, and while annoyed at the thought of her gowns being worn by a burglar woman, said their value was not great, and she was happy to find that many furnishings of greater value had not been taken.

HIS SWEETHEART SORRY.

Miss Celia Perryn Fears She Hurt Hildreth's Case, and is Anxious to Testify Again.

Rome, N. Y., May 4.—Miss Celia Perryn, young Hildreth's sweetheart, who proved such an unwilling witness for the people, says now she is sorry she did not make a full and free statement of what Hildreth said to her on the morning of the wreck. She is convinced that by her hesitancy and attempts to keep back the truth she did Hildreth's case more harm than good. She says she was told to do as she did, else her testimony would be fatal to Hildreth. She wishes to take the stand again and tell the whole story, but the District Attorney will not grant her request.

Detective Latham was recalled by the people to-day. Hildreth told him he did nothing but guide the boys there. He said Bristol and Ellard did most of the planning. Bristol promised him that if any trouble was made all would swear that Hildreth only led them to the place. Hildreth said Bristol picked out the spot for the wreck. Ellard pulled most of the nuts off. Bristol took most of the nuts off. He said he tried to get them not to do it after they got there, but Bristol told him that night as well as he as long as they were up there. Hildreth turned his back when he saw the headlight of the engine, and got a little further off.

Gold Mining Shares in the Market.  
Messrs. Hopkins Brothers, bankers at No. 68 Broadway, have issued the prospectus and placed upon the market 600,000 shares of the properties of the Troy Gold Mining Company, the "New York" and the "Nabob."

These mines are situated in the famous French gold mining district, Shasta County, California, and they bound on two sides the well known "Washington" mine. The property is claimed by experts to be one of the best in Northern California.

## AGED SOLDIER'S SUICIDE.

Reversion to Poverty More Than Chastepaigne Could Bear, so He Shot Himself.

Alexander Chastepaigne, a Frenchman, sixty-three years old, committed suicide in his room at Mons. Bernard's boarding house, No. 110 Christopher street, by shooting himself in the head with a revolver yesterday morning. He died instantly.

Chastepaigne was a captain in the French army, and served in the Franco-Prussian war. After that he lost a fortune in the wine business. He came of wealthy parents, but his pride kept him from seeking their aid. He came to this country in 1883 and lived in absolute poverty for more than two years.

Three years ago he learned that his parents had died and that he was heir to his father's fortune. He then went to live at Sterling, Morris County, N. J. Every month the mail brought him a check from France for \$100, his income from the fortune. On Christmas last he became acquainted with Mons. Bernard, and later moved to Bernard's boarding house in Christopher street, this city. He had been there three weeks when the remittances ceased suddenly. The old soldier wrote letter after letter to France, but received no reply. Three weeks ago he wrote another letter, and after last Thursday his spirits grew lighter; he assured Bernard that he would receive his regular remittance by yesterday.

Before retiring Sunday night Chastepaigne said to Mme. Bernard: "To-morrow morning the money will surely be here, and I wish you would wake me in time to catch the first mail." Mrs. Bernard roused him at 7 o'clock yesterday morning, and the old man sat at the window of his small room on the second floor watching for the letter. Suddenly the postman's whistle sent the color rushing to his cheeks.

Mrs. Bernard came to his room with a letter in her hand, and he made a rush for her, tore the letter from her hand, and read the inscription upon it. Then he sank to the floor weeping and moaning, when he learned that the letter was not for him.

When he went to his room, shut and locked the door, and placed his bed against it. He took his revolver from a bureau drawer, held it to his head, pulled the trigger, and the bullet entered his temple.

Mr. Bernard says Chastepaigne has a sister, Mme. Jules Eugene Saint Louis, France, and he will notify her of her brother's death.

Opening of the Providence Line.

The announcement of the opening of the Providence line Monday, May 11th, will be greeted with delight by all lovers of comfortable travel. The line will connect the routes for all travelers desiring to visit Boston, Providence, Worcester and New England and the Maritime Provinces, combining the advantage of the longest water route and shortest rail ride, assuring passengers a full night's rest with early arrival at destination, and the sail through Narragansett Bay and on the Providence River in the early morning or evening is a delightful feature, and will well repay the early rise. A novel feature of this line possessed by no other on the coast is the fact that passengers may while listening to a superb orchestra enjoy the cuisine of a first-class club or restaurant. The most distinctive feature, however, of this line, and one so often spoken of by travelers, is the uniform courtesy shown by all its officers and employees to travelers, which is the more appreciated because so often denied the traveling public.—Advs.

## DAY OF ACCIDENTS TO MANY CHILDREN.

Seven-Year-Old Samuel Boker Crushed to Death by a Heavy Truck.

While Playing With His Father's Revolver Oscar Smith Shoots Himself.

HIS SKULL FRACTURED BY A FALL.

Young Raymond Rodd Accidentally Shoots His Brother, De Witt, While Searching the Pantry for Sweets.

Two children met death in a tragic manner in Atlantic City, N. J., yesterday morning, the life of one being ground out beneath the wheels of a heavy truck, while the other fell a victim to an accidental pistol shot.

The first victim was Samuel Boker, the seven-year-old son of Edgar Baker, a furniture salesman. The boy attempted to steal a ride on the sword or connecting bar of one of the heavy trucks used by the Phoenix Bridge Company in transporting heavy steel girders which are being used in the construction of Atlantic City's new beach walk. As the vehicle jolted over the trucks of the street railway on Atlantic avenue, in front of the Reading station, young Baker lost his balance and tumbled to the ground directly in the path of one of the rear wheels of the truck. The wheel passed over the child's chest and face, crushing and killing him instantly. As a result of young Baker's tragic death, an entire family may be extinguished, for he was an only child, and the grief of his parents when informed of his death was so intense that both father and mother became hysterical, and later went into convulsions. Their attending physicians, Dr. Cushman and Dr. Joy, have small hopes of their recovery.

The other child victim was Oscar Smith, son of a local plumber, who resides on Mission avenue. The boy, who is only four years old, was left alone in an upstairs room to play, and secured possession of his father's revolver. The weapon was a .32-caliber self-cocking affair, and the little fellow, in his play, discharged it, sending a bullet into his head just below the right eye.

Edward Hughes, nine years old, of No. 305 Sixth street, Brooklyn, left his home yesterday afternoon to play with some schoolmates in a lot near by. He ran up Fourth avenue and made a dash to cross Ninth street.

Just then one of Contractor Owen O'Keefe's trucks was passing. Hughes tripped and fell, his head striking against the front wheel. John Finnegan, the driver, stopped the wagon and picked up the boy, who was unconscious. Ambulance Surgeon Webster took him to the Seney Hospital, where it was discovered that his skull was fractured and his right shoulder dislocated.

De Witt Rodd, seven years old, was accidentally shot in the mouth by his father, Ed Rodd, last night. The boy, who is now 151 Fifty-first street, Brooklyn, home yesterday. His condition is critical, and he may die before daylight.

Mrs. Rodd, mother of the boys, went out about 4 o'clock to a neighboring store. Raymond and De Witt were in the kitchen when she left. The moment her back was turned the boys began a search of the kitchen closet for something sweet. The three-year-old shelves contained nothing but salt, and the boys began to descend to the floor. In some way, which he cannot explain, the pistol went off, and a bullet struck De Witt. The boy was looking up at the time, and the bullet entered his mouth, taking a downward course and lodging in his right lung.

Raymond carried his brother to the sofa and went out to look for his mother. He met her at the front door, and told her what had happened. An officer, who was notified, had De Witt removed to the Norwegian Hospital.

Raymond was arrested and turned over to the Children's Society. The father, John H. Rodd, is employed as an engineer at Fifty-first street and Third avenue.



Royalty Denied on Letter Boxes.

Washington, May 4.—The attempt to compel the United States to pay a royalty for the use of the street letter boxes now in force came to naught in the Supreme Court of the United States to-day. The assignee of Samuel Strong, the patentee, brought suit in the Court of Claims in 1884 against the United States to recover a royalty of \$1 apiece on each of the 35,000 boxes then in use. The court rejected the claim, and this judgment the Supreme Court of the United States, in an opinion delivered by Justice Brown, affirmed.

Where Spaniards Fired On American Citizens.

Pedro Casanova, an American citizen, who owns property at San Miguel, Cuba, was in his home with his wife and nephew when the building was attacked by Spanish troops. Seven of his servants were murdered. He and his family were forced to flee for their lives, while the soldiers looted the house.